

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 AID-05 /067 W

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O 282053Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 147

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0471

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ES HO OAS

SUBJ:HONDURAS / EL SALVADOR RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: FONMIN BORGONOVO IS PERSONALLY FLYING OAS SEC GEN ORFILA TO TEGUCIGALPA JANUARY 28 AND WILLCONFER BRIEFLY WITH HONDURAN FONMIN PERDOMO. GOES IS IN ACCORD WITH HONDURAN PREFERENCE THAT OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN CONTINUE IN EXISTANCE AND PROVIDE ENDORSEMENT FOR DIRECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOES AND GOH TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CALL AMB. MAILLIARD AND I MADE ON FONMIN BORGONOVO AND UNDER SECRETARY CASTANEDA MORNING OF JANUARY 28, BORGONOVO TOLD US THAT HE WOULD BE FLYING OAS SEC GEN ORFILA TO TEGUCIGALPA THAT AFTERNOON IN BORGONOVO'S PRIVATE AIRPLANE AND SEND ABOUT ONE HOUR THERE MEETING WITH FONMIN PERDOMO. BORGONOVO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY POLICY ADVISOR J.A. RODRIGUEZ PORTH AND BOUNDARY AFFAIRS OFFICER R.A. CASTRILLY HIDALGO. WHEN SUCH A VISIT WAS FIRST PROPOSED TO PERDOMO EARLIER THIS WEEK, HE AGREED TO IT AND INVITED BORGONOVO TO STAY OVERNIGHT AND ATTEND RECEPTION FOR ORFILA. APPARENTLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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AFTER CHECKING THIS OUT WITH HIGHER AUTHORITY, WHICH HAD SOME

QUALMS, PERDOMO CALLED BACK TO SUGGEST ONLY A ONE-HOUR VISIT THIS TIME. BORGONOVO TOLD US THAT PRES. MOLINA HAD APPROVED AN OVERNIGHT VISIT AND "I AM TAKING MY TOOTHBRUSH" IN CASE GOH CHANGES ITS MIND AND INVITES HIM TO STAY. BORGONOVO WAS TO MEET THE LOCAL PRESS AFTER OUR CALL TO CONFIRM HIS TRIP TO TEGUCIGALPA.

3. GOES WELCOMES THIS EXERCISE AS A STEP TOWARD RESTORING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE RAPIDLY IMPROVING ATMOSPHERE ON THE EVE OF RENEWING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE BILATERAL PROBLEMS. PERDOMO EVIDENTLY CREATED A VERY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION WHEN HE AND BOROONOVO CONVERSED BY TELEPHONE LAST WEEK AND THIS. THE NOTED PARTICULARLY HIS OPEN-MINDEDNESS AND COMMITMENT TO STRIVE FOR A DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT IN 1976. WE CONGRATULATED BORGONOVO ON THIS DEVELOPMENT, EXPRESSED OUR HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISIT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO GOES TO PRESS AHEAD IN ITS QUEST FOR NORMALIZATION THIS YEAR.

4. IN RESPONDING TO AMB. MAILLIARD'S DOUBTING QUESTION ABOUT THE FUTURE USEFULNESS OF THE OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN, BORGONOVO RELATED SOME OF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE DISPUTE AND GOES RATIONALE IN PREFERRING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE IT (SALVADORAN CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS PRECLUDE ACCEPTANCE OF ADJUDICATION OR ARBITRATION). BORGONOVO NOTED THAT GOES HAD BEEN RELUCTANT IN THE LAST FEW YEARS TO HAVE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN CONTINUE IN EXISTENCE BECAUSE GOH HAD UTILIZED IT TO FILE COMPLAINTS AGAINST GOES AND OTHERWISE EXPLOIT IT FOR PARTISAN PROPAGANDA UNFAVORABLE TO EL SALVADOR. HOWEVER, SINCE LATE 1974 WHEN BOROONOVO AND BATRES ACHIEVED AGREEMENT ON MEDIATION FORMULA, GOES HAS RECOGNIZED THAT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN USEFUL DEVICE FOR ENDORSING DIRECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND, THUS, MAKING IT EASIER FOR GOH TO GET HONDURAN PUBLIC OPINION TO ACCEPT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS IN PLACE OF HISTORICALLY SUCCESSFUL ROUTE OF ADJUDICATION/ ARBITRATION TO WHICH HONDURANS ARE TRADITIONALLY ACCUSTOMED. THEREFORE, SO LONG AS GOH FINDS CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF COMMITTEE USEFUL AND DOES NOT ADVOCATE ITS DEMISE, AND WHILE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS, GOES IS ALSO IN ACCORD WITH ITS CONTINUED EXISTENCE. BORGONOVO HOPED, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS COULD PREVAIL ON BOTH GOH AND GOES TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS THERE IN THE LOWEST POSSIBLE KEY AND NOT TO EXPLOIT IT FOR UNILATERAL PROPAGANDA WHICH MIGHT PREJUDICE A SETTLEMENT.

5. COMMENT: ORFILA'S CURRENT VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA HAS PROVIDED A HELPFUL DEVISE ENABLING BORGONOVO TO MAKE THIS DRAMATIC TRIP TO TEGUCIGALPA AND, PERHAPS, PAVE THE WAY

FOR GREATER IMPETUS TOWARD NORMALIZATION. IF THIS VISIT  
DRAWS FAVORABLE PUBLIC REACTION IN HONDURAS, IT MAY EMBOLDEN  
THE GOH TO RESTORE DIPLOMATIC RELATONS WHICH WOULD BE A  
MAJOR STEP TOWARD NORMALIZATION. GOES OFFICIALS ARE HOPEFUL

THAT THIS MAY OCCUR SINCE IT WOULD GREATLY FACILITATE GOVERN-  
MENT TO GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS AND ENHANCE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.  
WE WERE ALSO INFORMED THAT THE CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE TWO ARMED  
FORCES MET ON JAN 23 AND THAT, AS A RESULT, TWO HIGH-RANKING  
HONDURAN OFFICERS WILL BE COMING TO EL SALVADOR FOR A THREE-  
DAY VISIT ON JANUARY 30 AS PORT OF THE PROCESS OF CREATING  
MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MILITARY OF  
BOTH COUNTRIES.  
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